

27th September, 1960

COCOM Document 4156 B

COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONA BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO EXPORT A HERTZIAN LINK TO POLAND19th September, 1960

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents 3715.20/3, 4047, 4117 and 4140.

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the United States Delegate to give his Government's further views on the Belgian request concerning the export of a Hertzian link to Poland (COCOM Doc 4117).

2. The UNITED STATES Delegate stated that he had been instructed to object to the proposed export. His authorities believed that this equipment, which could potentially operate on 480 channels, and would provide the Soviet Bloc with a prototype advantage, was readily convertible for uses far beyond those reasonable and necessary for the Polish civilian economy. The equipment was highly important and was more sophisticated than would be required for the stated end-use. The Delegate recalled that the United States had often emphasized not only the deficiency of the Soviet Bloc in communications equipment but also the particular importance of the Polish link, and had often objected to the export to Poland of equipment which could contribute significantly to an integrated communications system within the Soviet Bloc which would strengthen the Bloc's military and defense potential. In view of the United States technical experts, the material now proposed for export could not accurately be characterized as low-power short-range equipment. The Delegate observed with regard to the power level of the Belgian equipment that such a power level was typical in this category of equipment, and that, in fact, a considerable amount of equipment operated at only a one-watt level. The equipment was strictly point to point, and used parabolic reflectors for both transmitting and receiving, with a gain for each of 33 DB relative to isotropic radiation. This would be equivalent to 31 DB relative to a simple dipole antenna, and equivalent to a power gain of about 1300 (i.e. equal to 6500 watts of effective radiated power, and the same gain in receiving antenna). While the range of this equipment was dependent to some extent on the terrain, the range was nevertheless excellent. The proposed export represented high quality modern microwave equipment, which used the most modern tubes, silicon rectifier, superior input and out-put cavity filters, and crystal-controlled oscillators. The accompanying terminal equipment represented the latest in compact transistorized equipment. In short, in the view of the United States authorities, this material represented precisely the sort of equipment that Item 1520 was designed to embargo.

3. The BELGIAN Delegate stated that he had taken note of the objection raised by the United States Delegate. He stressed the fact that the maximum capacity of the equipment involved was 240 C.C.I.R. channels, not 480. He noted that, while a number of Delegations had approved this proposal, it had not met with unanimous agreement. He would communicate this conclusion to his authorities, reserving the right to revert to the matter later should they consider this to be desirable.

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